

CLAIMS

1. A method for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

5 displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu;

receiving a user selection of an option from the first set of selectable options; and

10 displaying at least a portion of a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection of an option from the second set of selectable options;

and

15 displaying at least a portion of a third curvilinear menu comprising a third set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the third curvilinear menu, wherein the third curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first and second curvilinear menus.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are ring-shaped.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving comprises:

rotating the first curvilinear menu about an axis to align a desired option from the first set with a fixed selection indicator.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein receiving further comprises:

detecting a user action indicating selection of the option aligned with the selection indicator.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving comprises:

5 moving a selection indicator circumferentially around the first curvilinear menu to align the selection indicator with a desired option from the first set.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein receiving further comprises:

detecting a user action indicating selection of the option aligned with the selection indicator.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the second set are determined by a selected option from the first set.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the second set are sub-options of a selected option from the first set.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the first and
15 second sets are hierarchically related.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option comprises an icon.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option comprises text description.

20 13. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option is associated with an audio sample, and wherein the audio sample is played in response to the corresponding option being aligned with a selection indicator.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically displayed around the first curvilinear menu.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically displayed within the first curvilinear menu.

5 16. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a user selection of an option from the second set comprises:

rotating the second curvilinear menu about an axis to align a desired option from the second set with a fixed selection indicator.

17. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a user selection of an option from the second set comprises:

moving a selection indicator circumferentially around the second curvilinear menu to align the selection indicator with a desired option from the second set.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are rotatable about a common axis in response to a user command.

15 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the second curvilinear menu is displayed in response to the selection of an option from the first set.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the first curvilinear menu is only partially displayed in the graphical user interface, and wherein the first set of selectable options comprises a subset of available options associated with the first curvilinear menu.

20 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable in response to a user command to display a different subset of available options.

22. A user interface comprising:

a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu; and

a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu, and wherein the second curvilinear menu is displayed in response to a user selection of an option from the first set.

23. The user interface of claim 22, further comprising:

a third curvilinear menu comprising a third set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the third curvilinear menu, wherein the third curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the second curvilinear menu, and wherein the third curvilinear menu is displayed in response to a user selection of an option from the second set.

24. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are ring-shaped.

25. The user interface of claim 22, further comprising:

a fixed selection indicator;

wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable to align a desired option from the first set of selectable options with the fixed selection indicator.

26. The user interface of claim 25, wherein the second curvilinear menu is rotatable to align a desired option from the second set with the fixed selection indicator.

27. The user interface of claim 22, further comprising:

a first movable selection indicator configured to move circumferentially around the first curvilinear menu to align with a desired option from the first set.

28. The user interface of claim 27, further comprising:

a second movable selection indicator configured to move circumferentially around the second curvilinear menu to align to a desired option from the second set.

29. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the second set are determined by a selected option from the first set.

30. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the second set are sub-options of a selected option from the first set.

31. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the first and second sets are hierarchically related.

32. The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option comprises an icon.

33. The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option comprises text description.

34. The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option is associated with an audio sample, and wherein the audio sample is played in response to the corresponding option being aligned with a selection indicator.

35. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically displayed around the first curvilinear menu.

36. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically displayed within the first curvilinear menu.

37. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are rotatable about a common axis in response to a user command.

38. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first curvilinear menu is only partially displayed, and wherein the first set of selectable options comprises a subset of available options associated with the first curvilinear menu.

39. The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable in response to a user command to display a different subset of available options.

40. A computer program product for performing a method for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu;

receiving a user selection of an option from the first set of selectable options; and

displaying at least a portion of a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu.

41. A system for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the system comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu;

means for receiving a user selection of an option from the first set of selectable options; and

